

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IGA-01 EB-07 L-02 AGR-05 TRSE-00

SS-15 SP-02 SAM-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /091 W

----- 131050

R 020900Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7036

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0847

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IS, JO

SUBJ: PL 480 TITLE II FY-76 PROGRAM IN ISRAELI OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES

REF: TEL AVIV 2591

1. CONGEN FULLY SUPPORTS EMBASSY TEL AVIV'S RECOMMENDATIONS
REFTEL INSOFAR AS THEY RELATE TO VOLAG PROGRAM ON WEST BANK.
WE RECOGNIZE THERE IS PROBABLY GREAT PRESSURE TO REFUSE AID
PROGRAMS. IT APPEARS TO US, HOWEVER, THAT REDUCTION OF PROGRAM
ON WEST BANK WOULD BE ESPECIALLY UNFORTUNATE AT THIS PARTICULAR
MOMENT.

2. PRINCIPAL CONSIDERATION IN OUR VIEW IS POLITICAL IMPACT
SUCH ACTION MIGHT HAVE. AS DEPT WELL AWARE, ANY CHANGE IN US
GOVT ACTIVITY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TAKES ON POLITICAL SIGNI-
FICANCE IN EYES ON LOCAL POPULACE, REGARDLESS OF INTENT.
SENSITIVITIES ON THIS SCORE ARE ESPECIALLY ACUTE NOW IN LIGHT
OF CURRENT REPORTS OF GOI PLANS FOR TRANSFERRING ADDITIONAL
LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY TO WEST BANKERS (JERUSALEM 812;
TEL AVIV 2381). LOCAL AND OTHER ARABS (AND PERHAPS GOI AS
WELL, AS EMBASSY SUGGESTS) ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD VIEW REDUCTION
IN US AID PROGRAM IN OCCUPIED AREAS AS INDICATING A DIMINUTION
IN OFFICIAL US INTEREST IN AREA OR REFLECTING ACCEPTANCE BY
USG OF ENHANCED OR PERMANENT GOI ROLE IN AREA. NO EXPLANATIONS
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WOULD LIKELY TO DISPEL THIS ASSESSMENT. SUCH DEVELOPMENT COULD

BE PARTICULARLY DAMAGING TO US INTERESTS AT THIS PARTICULAR
JUNCTURE IN US ME PEACE EFFORTS.

3. ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS NOTED IN REFTL
ARE ALSO LIKELY TO INCREASE FOR WEST BANK POPULATION IN COMING
MONTHS, AS LIVING COSTS CONTINUE TO RISE AND INCOME IN
MANY CASE TO DROP. WITH STRONG POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED
UNEMPLOYMENT, FOOL-FOR-WORK PROGRAM PARTICULARLY HELPFUL
AND IMPORTANT; RELIEF PROGRAM ALREADY LIMITED TO STRICTLY
HARD-CORE CASES. DIFFICULTY IN TRYING TO EXPLAIN CONVINCINGLY
REDUCTION IN PROGRAM AT VERY VERY TIME THAT NEEDS
ARE GROWING IS OBVIOUS.

4. WE DO NOT WISH TO EXAGGERATE IMPORTANCE OF CONTEMPLATED
ACTION, BUT WE BELIEVE ACTIONS WE TAKE IN OCCUPIED AREAS CAN
HAVE EFFECTS OF SOME IMPORATNCE REACHING WELL BEYOND BORDERS
OF AREAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED.
DAY

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